

# IDAHO EMPLOYMENT

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## State Overview

### IDAHO'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECREASES TO 4.8 PERCENT

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January 2004 was 4.8 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point from December 2003. Idaho's January rate was eight-tenths of a percentage point below the 5.6 percent rate experienced one year earlier. Idaho's rate was eight-tenths of a percentage point below the January national unemployment rate of 5.6 percent, which was down one-tenth of a percentage point from December 2003.

The January rate was the lowest that Idaho has experienced since March 2001 when the rate was 4.7 percent. The nation's unemployment rate for January 2004 was 5.6 percent, the lowest rate since September 2002 when it was also 5.6 percent.

Idaho's seasonally adjusted *Civilian Labor Force* in January was 697,400, an increase of 2,100 from December. There were 1,100 fewer people unemployed in January than in December. The number of employed Idahoans increased by 3,200 from December to January. Although modest, the increase in employment compared to December reflects an upward employment trend that began in September 2003.

The impact of the slowly improving economy during 2003 and now 2004 is reflected in the year-over-year changes in the labor force. In January 2004 the number of individuals in Idaho's labor force was 8,200 more than in January 2003. The number of individuals employed in January 2004 was 663,600, which is 13,000 more than the number employed in January 2003. The decrease in the number of unemployed individuals over the year was 4,800.

Idaho's annual average unemployment rate in 2003 was 5.4 percent, down four-tenths of a percentage point from 2002's annual average rate of 5.8 percent, following a nine-tenths of a percent increase from 2001 to 2002. Although the economy struggled during the year, Idaho's annual average *Civilian Labor Force* increased from 2002 by 7,800 persons to 692,500 in 2003. The annual average number of employed persons in 2003 increased by 10,100 and the annual average number of unemployed persons in 2003 decreased by 2,300 from 2002.

### AREA AND COUNTY LABOR FORCE HIGHLIGHTS

*State Table 1 on page 3 presents the labor force details for Idaho Labor Market Areas, counties, and major cities.*

Adams County was the only county that experienced a double-digit unemployment rate at 15.4 percent in January 2004. It also had the high-

est county annual unemployment rate for 2003 at 14.2 percent, followed by Shoshone County at 11.6 percent, Washington County at 10.6 percent, and Benewah and Clearwater Counties, both at 10.1 percent.

Three counties experienced unemployment rates below 3.0 percent for January 2004, including Latah County at 2.8 percent, and Owyhee and Madison Counties, both at 1.7 percent. Madison and Owyhee Counties had the lowest annual average unemployment rates for 2003 with 1.8 and 2.3 percent, respectively.

Among the state's Labor Market Areas (LMA), the Bonneville LMA and the Seaport LMA tied for the lowest unemployment rate at 3.5 percent. Three LMAs had unemployment rates above 7.0 percent: Cassia-Minidoka at 7.6 percent, Panhandle at 7.4 percent, and Idaho-Lewis at 7.3 percent.

### NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

*State Table 4 on page 5 provides details on Idaho Nonfarm Payroll Jobs employment.*

January's total *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* declined by 17,000 jobs from December 2003, for a 3.0 percent decline. Even with the substantial job loss, the total number of jobs was 3,800 more than in January 2003.

A loss of 17,000 jobs from December to January is not an unusual event for Idaho. Since 1990, a loss of 12,000 to 20,000 jobs for that time period has been the norm. There are three main reasons for this drop: 1) the end of the holiday shopping and travel season; 2) the more severe winter weather; and 3) the effects of statistical benchmarking of the previous year's employment estimates combined with the introduction of new estimating algorithms for the current year. The first two factors make sense; the third factor—statistical model changes—is almost impossible to explain briefly.

January's job loss was spread throughout the array of industries listed on State Table 4 on page 5. Only three industries had job gains and those were marginal. About 76 percent of the monthly job loss occurred in the *Service-Providing Industries*. This is nearly the same ratio for the number of jobs in these industries compared to all *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs*.

*Construction* accounted for nearly the entire decline in *Goods-Producing Industries* jobs. The Idaho winter was snowy and cold, and many building projects had to be curtailed, deferred, or stopped. The weather was welcomed as it negated some of the effects of three years of drought-like weather patterns, but outdoor workers lost some time on the job. *Construction* employment remains strong and slightly above last year's level.

*Food Manufacturing* declined by 400 jobs by both the month-over-month and the year-over-year measures. Fewer potatoes were processed and beef processing was facing the uncertainties caused by the case of an animal with mad cow disease in Washington that was confirmed in December. The immediate future of Idaho's food processing sector is not particularly rosy, but it is possible a period of relative stability will occur.

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*[jhyer@jobservice.us](mailto:jhyer@jobservice.us)*

*or to the Regional Labor Economists noted in each area news section.*

#### Editor

*Jean Cullen ([jcullen@jobservice.us](mailto:jcullen@jobservice.us))*

**DIRK KEMPTHORNE, GOVERNOR**

**Roger B. Madsen, Director**



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The number of jobs in Idaho's *Computer & Electronics Product Manufacturing* remained close to what it has been for the last several months, averaging about 16,300 jobs. The industry has not recovered the nearly 900 jobs lost during the last twelve months, but reports by Idaho manufacturers have predicted recovery is on the horizon.

*Administrative & Support Services* lost 2,700 jobs from December to January. This industry contains two types of businesses that have gained jobs significantly over the last few years: call centers and temporary personnel agencies. These businesses do not have stable month-to-month employment trends, although the long-term trend has been steadily upward. The short-term instability is a result of the short-term needs of these firms' customers—usually businesses in other industries. The temporary employment agencies supply workers to help in the holiday shopping, mailing, and warehouse distributing peak times. After the peak period, the workers are no longer needed.

Most likely the net decline in call center jobs was just a normal business fluctuation, although some centers have had to close or curtail operations because the outbound calling business has dropped significantly due to the federal "no call" list program. These industries lost jobs in the short-term, but not in the longer term, as there were 1,100 more jobs in January 2004 than in January 2003.

Continued year-over-year growth was seen in *Retail Trade, Financial Services, and Health & Social Assistance*. These industries are population driven, but the recent growth is also due in part to a rising level of consumer confidence and low interest rates during the last quarter of 2003.

## AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS

Idaho's 2003 crop growing season was characterized as one with a cool and wet spring that delayed planting in some areas. In addition, above normal temperatures occurred in the summer coupled with little precipitation and possible water shortages, an earlier than usual harvest for many crops, and insect and disease infestations that were enhanced by weather conditions, according to the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service, which recently released the state's 2003 crop production estimates.

Most of the primary Idaho crops saw a drop both in production and value of production from 2002 to 2003. Production is the combination of acres harvested and yield per acre, and both factors can change from year to year. The value is the price per

State Table 1: January 2004 Labor Force (preliminary)

Seasonally Adjusted	Labor Force	Unemp.	% Unemp.	Total Emp.
<b>Seaport LMA</b>	36,319	1,258	3.5	35,061
Nez Perce County	23,939	784	3.3	23,155
Asotin County, WA	12,380	474	3.8	11,906
<b>Boise City MSA</b>	250,049	10,808	4.3	239,241
Ada County	178,944	6,619	3.7	172,325
Canyon County	71,105	4,189	5.9	66,916
<b>Pocatello City MSA*</b>	39,211	1,904	4.9	37,307
<b>Bonneville LMA</b>	85,300	2,963	3.5	82,337
Bingham County	22,717	938	4.1	21,779
Bonneville County	50,530	1,584	3.1	48,946
Butte County	1,612	78	4.9	1,534
Jefferson County	10,440	363	3.5	10,077
<b>Cassia-Minidoka LMA</b>	20,244	1,532	7.6	18,712
Cassia County	10,227	690	6.7	9,537
Minidoka County	10,017	842	8.4	9,175
<b>Idaho-Lewis LMA</b>	8,341	611	7.3	7,730
Idaho County	6,793	550	8.1	6,243
Lewis County	1,548	61	3.9	1,487
<b>Panhandle LMA</b>	92,676	6,815	7.4	85,862
Benewah County	4,267	415	9.7	3,853
Bonner County	17,877	1,186	6.6	16,690
Boundary County	4,446	332	7.5	4,114
Kootenai County	59,893	4,279	7.1	55,615
Shoshone County	6,193	603	9.7	5,590
<b>Magic Valley LMA</b>	57,532	2,220	3.9	55,312
Gooding County	8,044	283	3.5	7,761
Jerome County	10,716	421	3.9	10,295
Twin Falls County	38,772	1,516	3.9	37,256
Adams County	1,774	273	15.4	1,501
Bear Lake County	3,046	146	4.8	2,901
Blaine County	12,030	446	3.7	11,584
Boise County	2,646	155	5.9	2,490
Camas County	451	26	5.7	425
Caribou County	3,227	219	6.8	3,008
Clark County	592	28	4.8	564
Clearwater County	3,722	350	9.4	3,372
Custer County	2,231	152	6.8	2,079
Elmore County	9,624	508	5.3	9,116
Franklin County	5,373	183	3.4	5,190
Fremont County	5,034	285	5.7	4,750
Gem County	5,818	375	6.4	5,443
Latah County	16,187	447	2.8	15,740
Lemhi County	3,875	252	6.5	3,623
Lincoln County	2,166	116	5.4	2,050
Madison County	11,667	198	1.7	11,469
Oneida County	1,728	60	3.5	1,668
Owyhee County	3,905	68	1.7	3,837
Payette County	9,746	737	7.6	9,009
Power County	3,295	279	8.5	3,016
Teton County	3,763	152	4.0	3,611
Valley County	3,906	282	7.2	3,624
Washington County	4,267	388	9.1	3,878
<b>State of Idaho</b>	<b>697,363</b>	<b>33,761</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>663,602</b>
<b>Idaho Cities</b>				
Boise	112,715	4,055	3.6	108,660
Coeur d'Alene	21,189	1,153	5.4	20,037
Idaho Falls	30,988	1,020	3.3	29,968
Lewiston	20,507	584	2.9	19,923
Nampa	21,781	1,399	6.4	20,382
Pocatello	28,490	1,358	4.8	27,132
Twin Falls	20,379	838	4.1	19,541

\* Pocatello MSA includes all of Bannock County.

State Table 2: Idaho Crop Results (2001 & 2002) and Estimates, 2003

Crop	Year	Acres Harvested (1,000s)	Production (1,000s)	Price per Unit (\$)	Value of Production (\$1,000)
<b>Wheat, All</b>	2001	1,200	85,150	3.18	269,963
	2002	1,200	87,660	3.67	321,499
	2003	1,170	87,300	3.55	310,095
<b>Hay, Alfalfa</b>	2001	1,120	4,368	118.00	515,424
	2002	1,250	5,000	96.50	482,500
	2003	1,200	1,110	88.00	390,720
<b>Sugar beets</b>	2001	179	4,636	40.50	187,758
	2002	210	5,103	41.60	212,285
	2003	207	6,065	INA	INA
<b>Potatoes, All</b>	2001	348	120,200	6.15	739,230
	2002	373	133,385	5.00	666,925
	2003	358	123,180	4.40	541,992
<b>Barley</b>	2001	670	50,250	2.75	138,188
	2002	710	53,960	3.04	164,038
	2003	720	47,520	3.20	152,064

Source: Idaho Agricultural Statistical Service  
Agriculture in Idaho, February 19, 2004

unit multiplied by units produced (units vary, i.e. wheat is in bushels, hay is in tons, and potatoes are in hundred-weight). Barley is the only crop listed in the table that had an increased value of production in 2003 over 2002. It is too early to estimate the value of sugar beet production. (See State Table 2.)

This data is taken from *Agriculture in Idaho, February 2004*. Data for all crops can be obtained on-line at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/id/publications/pubtoc.htm>.

The number of small farms in Idaho increased from 1997 to 2002, according to preliminary data from the 2002 Census of Agriculture, recently released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This census is undertaken every five years and is intended to provide comprehensive data on the nation's agricultural industry and its producers.

Selected highlights from this preliminary data are included in State Table 3. The increase in small farms is due in part to improved survey methodology introduced in the 2002 census to increase the representation of very small farms in the census results. Some of this increase, however, might be the result of large farm plots converting to residential plots that often include some livestock or crop acreage. This conversion has been occurring around Idaho's larger cities as the population continues to increase, and "ranchettes" (small acreages) grow in popularity. However, to be counted as a farm in the census, the enterprise must have at least \$1,000 in farm-sales the previous year.

State Table 3: US Census of Idaho Farms & Operators, 2002 & 1997

All Farms	2002	1997	% Change
<b>Farms</b> (in numbers)	25,016	25,590	-2.2
<b>Land in farms</b> (in acres)	11,803,747	12,057,001	-2.1
<b>Average size of farm</b> (in acres)	472	471	0.2
<b>Farms by size</b>			
1 to 9 acres	4,913	4,320	13.7
10 to 49 acres	7,447	6,857	8.6
50 to 499 acres	8,172	9,310	-12.2
Over 500 acres	4,584	5,103	-10.2
<b>Farms by value of sales</b>			
Less than \$2,500	12,016	8,016	49.9
\$2,500 to \$4,999	1,795	2,790	-35.7
\$5,000 to \$50,000	5,938	8,007	-25.8
Over \$50,000	5,267	6,777	-22.3
<b>Farms by organization type</b>			
Family or individual	22,045	21,669	1.7
Partnership	1,551	2,089	-25.8
Corporation	1,207	1,523	-20.7
Other	213	309	-31.1
<b>Total operators</b>	38,920	(NA)	
Total female operators	11,734	(NA)	
<b>Principal operator's primary occupation</b>			
Farming	13,811	12,786	8.0
Other	11,205	12,804	-12.5
<b>Average age of principal operator</b>	54.0	52.8	

Source: 2002 Census of Agriculture - Preliminary Data

The preliminary data does not include information about farm workers. Future data releases will include this information as well as more detailed data, such as county-specific tabulations. The Internet site for the Census of Agriculture is <http://www.nass.usda.gov/census>.

James Adams, Sr. Planner/Economist  
317 W. Main Street, Boise, ID 83735  
(208) 332-3570, ext. 3219  
E-mail: jadams@jobservice.us

State Table 4: Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

% Change From

BY PLACE OF WORK	Jan 2004*	Dec 2003	Jan 2003	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	559,100	576,100	555,300	-3.0	0.7
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>	96,400	100,500	99,100	-4.1	-2.7
<b>Natural Resources &amp; Mining</b>	3,500	3,600	3,500	-2.8	0.0
Logging	1,800	2,000	1,900	-10.0	-5.3
Mining	1,700	1,600	1,600	6.3	6.3
Metal Ore Mining	500	500	500	0.0	0.0
<b>Construction</b>	32,600	36,100	32,300	-9.7	0.9
<b>Manufacturing</b>	60,300	60,800	63,300	-0.8	-4.7
Durable Goods	36,800	36,900	39,200	-0.3	-6.1
Wood Product Manufacturing	6,800	6,900	7,400	-1.4	-8.1
Sawmills & Wood Preservation	2,800	2,700	3,000	3.7	-6.7
Veneer & Engineered Products	1,100	1,300	1,200	-15.4	-8.3
Other Wood Product Manufacturing	2,900	2,900	3,200	0.0	-9.4
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	3,400	3,400	3,600	0.0	-5.6
Machinery Manufacturing	2,500	2,500	2,700	0.0	-7.4
Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	16,400	16,300	17,300	0.6	-5.2
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	2,100	2,100	2,000	0.0	5.0
Other Durable Goods	5,600	5,700	6,200	-1.8	-9.7
Nondurable Goods	23,500	23,900	24,100	-1.7	-2.5
Food Manufacturing	15,600	16,000	16,000	-2.5	-2.5
Fruits & Vegetable Preserving & Specialty	7,400	7,700	7,800	-3.9	-5.1
Paper Manufacturing	1,600	1,600	1,600	0.0	0.0
Printing & Related Support Activities	2,100	2,100	2,100	0.0	0.0
Chemical Manufacturing	1,700	1,800	1,800	-5.6	-5.6
Other Nondurable Goods	2,500	2,400	2,600	4.2	-3.8
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES</b>	462,700	475,600	456,200	-2.7	1.4
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	114,000	118,300	113,800	-3.6	0.2
Trade	95,600	99,200	95,200	-3.6	0.4
Wholesale Trade	23,700	24,000	24,300	-1.3	-2.5
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	10,700	10,900	11,300	-1.8	-5.3
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	10,900	11,100	11,100	-1.8	-1.8
Retail Trade	71,900	75,200	70,900	-4.4	1.4
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	10,700	10,900	10,500	-1.8	1.9
Building Material and Garden Equipment	7,100	7,300	6,900	-2.7	2.9
Food & Beverage Stores	11,900	12,400	12,300	-4.0	-3.3
General Merchandise Stores	14,900	16,600	14,600	-10.2	2.1
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	18,400	19,100	18,600	-3.7	-1.1
Utilities	1,800	1,800	1,800	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	16,600	17,300	16,800	-4.0	-1.2
Rail Transportation	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0	0.0
Truck Transportation	8,100	8,500	8,200	-4.7	-1.2
<b>Information</b>	9,000	9,200	9,100	-2.2	-1.1
Telecommunications	3,300	3,300	3,200	0.0	3.1
<b>Financial Activities</b>	26,900	27,400	26,100	-1.8	3.1
Finance & Insurance	20,200	20,400	19,600	-1.0	3.1
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	6,700	7,000	6,500	-4.3	3.1
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	67,600	71,000	66,200	-4.8	2.1
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	29,000	29,200	28,400	-0.7	2.1
Scientific Research & Development	7,200	7,200	7,300	0.0	-1.4
Management of Companies & Enterprises	7,200	7,200	7,300	0.0	-1.4
Administrative & Support & Waste Management	31,400	34,600	30,500	-9.2	3.0
Administrative & Support Services	30,600	33,300	29,500	-8.1	3.7
Educational & Health Services	64,100	64,600	61,300	-0.8	4.6
Educational Services	7,300	7,700	7,200	-5.2	1.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	56,800	56,900	54,100	-0.2	5.0
Hospitals	13,600	13,600	13,000	0.0	4.6
Leisure & Hospitality	51,500	52,600	51,400	-2.1	0.2
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	6,800	6,800	6,700	0.0	1.5
Accommodation & Food Services	44,700	45,800	44,700	-2.4	0.0
Accommodation	7,200	7,400	7,300	-2.7	-1.4
Food Services & Drinking Places	37,500	38,400	37,400	-2.3	0.3
Other Services	17,800	18,100	17,700	-1.7	0.6
<b>Total Government</b>	111,800	114,400	110,600	-2.3	1.1
Federal Government	12,500	13,000	12,500	-3.8	0.0
State & Local Government	99,300	101,400	98,100	-2.1	1.2
State Government	28,400	29,400	28,000	-3.4	1.4
State Government Education	13,600	14,800	13,500	-8.1	0.7
State Government Administration	14,800	14,600	14,500	1.4	2.1
Local Government	70,900	72,000	70,100	-1.5	1.1
Local Government Education	36,000	36,900	36,700	-2.4	-1.9
Local Government Administration	32,000	32,100	30,700	-0.3	4.2
Local Government Tribes	2,900	3,000	2,700	-3.3	7.4

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\* Estimates include all full or part time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

State Table 5: Economic Indicators

				% Change From	
	Jan 2004	Dec 2003	Jan 2003	Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE <sup>(1)</sup>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	697,400	695,300	689,200	0.3	1.2
Unemployment	33,800	34,900	38,600	-3.2	-12.4
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	4.8	5.0	5.6		
Total Employment	663,600	660,400	650,600	0.5	2.0
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	687,600	691,600	679,500	-0.6	1.2
Unemployment	42,300	37,100	47,200	14.0	-10.4
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	6.2	5.4	6.9		
Total Employment	645,300	654,500	632,300	-1.4	2.1
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE <sup>(2)</sup>	5.7	5.9	6.0		
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX <sup>(2)</sup>					
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	180.9	179.9	177.7	0.6	1.8
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	185.2	184.3	181.7	0.5	1.9
AGRICULTURE					
Agriculture Employment	32,610	34,020	29,650	-4.1	10.0
Operators	9,740	9,010	9,010	8.1	8.1
Unpaid Family	360	360	360	0.0	0.0
Hired Workers	22,510	24,650	20,280	-8.7	11.0
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
<b>Claims Activities</b>					
Initial Claims <sup>(3)</sup>	14,267	20,743	17,203	-31.2	-17.1
Weeks Claimed <sup>(4)</sup>	118,083	124,780	127,235	-5.4	-7.2
<b>Benefit Payment Activities<sup>(5)</sup></b>					
Weeks Compensated	98,769	102,694	105,554	-3.8	-6.4
Total Benefit \$ Paid	\$22,307,208	\$22,792,287	\$23,601,698	-2.1	-5.5
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$225.85	\$221.94	\$223.60	1.8	1.0
Covered Employers	42,026	41,539	40,926	1.2	2.7
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months <sup>(4)</sup>	\$218,771,285	\$220,065,775	\$213,836,285	-0.6	2.3
(1) Preliminary Estimate					
(2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics					
(3) Includes all entitlements/programs on Intrastate and Interstate Agent, New, and Additional Claims					
(4) Includes all entitlements/programs, Intrastate and Interstate Agent					
(5) Includes all entitlements/programs, Total Liable Activities					



# PANHANDLE

BENEWAH, BONNER, BOUNDARY, KOOTENAI, & SHOSHONE COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Upon entering 2004, the Panhandle was experiencing significant job growth. The year before, it still was struggling to emerge from the shadow of the U.S. economic slowdown. That's one reason why the January 2003 seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 8.8 percent was considerably higher than the 7.4 percent rate a year earlier.

In addition, between January 2003 and January 2004, the Panhandle *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* grew 1.8 percent, adding 1,200 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs*. For details, see Panhandle Table 1.

The critical *Goods-Producing Sector*—source of many jobs that drive the local economy—added 340 jobs between January 2003 and January 2004 and promises to add considerably more jobs in the coming months. Because of last summer's closure of the 140-worker Louisiana-Pacific mill in Bonners Ferry and the December layoff of 67 workers at Stimson Lumber's Atlas mill in Coeur d'Alene, *Wood Product Manufacturing* lost 160 jobs. In January 2003, lumber and plywood prices still were near 10-year lows, causing reduced work at many mills. Since then, prices for lumber and especially plywood have risen. So *Wood Product* probably will add a few jobs in the coming months.

*Other Manufacturing* businesses added 60 jobs between January 2003 and January 2004. By the fall of 2003, *Manufacturing* had recovered to its 2001 level. The manufacturing industries showing the strongest gains over the 12-month period were plastics, aircraft, and electronics. Low mortgage rates and continued population growth have brought residential construction to exceptionally high levels during the last two years. A variety of commercial, school, and highway projects in 2003 boosted *Construction* employment 8.6 percent between January 2003 and January 2004. Barring spikes in mortgage rates, *Construction* should continue to boom in 2004. Indus-

Panhandle Table 1: Labor Force & Employment

	Jan 2004*	Dec 2003	Jan 2003	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	92,670	91,770	91,880	1.0	0.9
Unemployed	6,810	6,670	8,060	2.1	-15.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.4	7.3	8.8		
Total Employment	85,860	85,100	83,820	0.9	2.4
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	91,950	92,090	91,240	-0.2	0.8
Unemployed	8,850	7,430	10,170	19.1	-13.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.6	8.1	11.1		
Total Employment	83,100	84,660	81,070	-1.8	2.5
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	67,180	69,570	65,980	-3.4	1.8
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	12,670	13,540	12,330	-6.4	2.8
Natural Resources & Mining	1,500	1,620	1,390	-7.4	7.9
Construction	4,180	4,890	3,850	-14.5	8.6
Manufacturing	6,990	7,030	7,090	-0.6	-1.4
Wood Product Manufacturing	2,670	2,660	2,830	0.4	-5.7
Other Manufacturing	4,320	4,370	4,260	-1.1	1.4
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	54,510	56,030	53,650	-2.7	1.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	13,560	14,040	13,190	-3.4	2.8
Wholesale Trade	1,340	1,380	1,320	-2.9	1.5
Retail Trade	10,440	10,910	10,070	-4.3	3.7
Utilities	380	380	380	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,400	1,370	1,420	2.2	-1.4
Information	1,090	1,130	1,100	-3.5	-0.9
Financial Activities	2,840	2,890	2,770	-1.7	2.5
Professional & Business Services	5,790	6,120	6,240	-5.4	-7.2
Educational & Health Services	6,960	7,040	6,580	-1.1	5.8
Leisure & Hospitality	7,520	7,760	7,380	-3.1	1.9
Other Services	2,100	2,090	2,180	0.5	-3.7
Government Education	5,120	5,260	4,930	-2.7	3.9
Government Administration	8,240	8,410	8,170	-2.0	0.9
Government Tribes	1,290	1,290	1,110	0.0	16.2

\* Preliminary estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

trial construction will be boosted by construction of the Sysco facility and the Buck Knives plants in Post Falls, expected to start in the next month. *Natural Resources & Mining* was 110 jobs higher in January 2004 than the same month the year before. Logging employment was about 70 jobs higher. Approximately half of logging's increase resulted from better weather for logging in January 2004 than in January 2003, when rainy weather and the resulting muddy roads idled many loggers. The other half of logging's 70 new jobs reflected increased demand for logs since lumber prices rose. *Mining* added about 40 jobs as silver prices rose. The Lucky Friday Mine near Mullan has been adding workers, and a team now is exploring the defunct Sunshine Mine to determine whether to re-open it. The Galena Mine also expects to increase employment during 2004.

In an unusual turn of events, the *Service-Providing* sector grew more slowly than the *Goods-Producing* sector. The *Service-Providing* sector grew 1.6 percent from January 2003 to January 2004. Job losses in call centers (part of *Professional & Business Services*) and nonprofit organizations (part of *Other Services*) offset job gains in other industries. The call center job losses came from last summer's closure of the Tele-Servicing Innovations (TSI) call center in January 2003, which employed 110 people in Smelterville, and the loss of about 500 jobs at the Center Partners call centers in Coeur d'Alene and Post Falls since January 2003. Fortunately, most of those job losses were erased in February 2004 when Verizon began hiring 300 people for its new call center in Coeur d'Alene, Center Partners reopened its Coeur d'Alene call center with more than 200 workers, and Northpoint Financial Group opened a call center with 15 employees in the former TSI building in Smelterville.

The Panhandle's *Retail Trade* sector, which floundered in the doldrums in 2002, added 370 jobs between January 2003 and January 2004. Retail stores benefited from rising incomes, strong population growth, more tourism (especially this ski season compared to the last ski season), and a change in the exchange rate that is bringing more Canadians here to shop and play. Those factors are expected to continue to increase *Retail Trade* employment during the next few months. In addition, the opening of the Coeur d'Alene Costco in mid-April will add 150 retail jobs. Despite the improving job outlook, many Panhandle residents still are eager for job opportunities. About 3,000 people applied for the Costco jobs.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Benewah County

- Cabin City Pizza and More—a restaurant seating 65 and serving burgers, sandwiches, salads, espresso, ice cream, deli items, pizza, beer, and wine—opened in February. The restaurant is located next to the Cabin City gas station and convenience store that also is owned by the Haeg family.
- Fort Hemenway Manor Bed & Breakfast in St. Maries currently is being refurbished after being closed for a few months. New owner Gil Babeaux is adding wool carpets and fine furniture, including a couch that curves around the fireplace. By Easter, the 100-year-old house at 1001 West Jefferson Avenue will reopen as a four-bedroom bed and breakfast.
- Stubby Lake Smoke Shop recently opened on the east side of Highway 95 in Plummer, a city of 1,000 residents on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation.

### Bonner County

- Montana Rockies Rail Tours, based in Sandpoint, recently was named the best rail tour company in

North America by North American Travel Journalists Association for the second year in a row. From May through September, the tour takes passengers 478 breath-taking miles from Sandpoint to Livingston, Montana, in restored 1940s railcars.

- Sandpoint, a city of 7,200 residents, recently welcomed Northern Blue Clothing—a women's clothing store at 119 North First—and Sandpoint Physical Therapy & Aquatic Center.

### Boundary County

- In late 2003, Zane Dittmann opened the Coffin Shop in Bonners Ferry, a city of 2,640. He makes handcrafted rustic coffins from pine, larch, or cedar, and sells them directly to the public.

### Kootenai County

- As a rule, Spokane County businesses are more likely to move to Kootenai County than the other way around. Cascade Furniture Manufacturing is the exception, however. The furniture manufacturer that employed 13 people in Hayden recently moved to Spokane Valley where it has a larger space and better access to its suppliers in the Spokane area. The manufacturer makes desks, nightstands, and credenzas for the lodging industry.
- A few weeks later, another Hayden manufacturer of furniture for the lodging industry announced it was expanding. Hospitality Manufacturing—a 14-year-old maker of furniture for hotels, hospitals, and schools—currently is located in two buildings totaling 12,000-square feet. This winter, it broke ground on a 16,000-square-foot building at 2321 West Dakota. In 2003 it added five employees bringing total employment to 12 people. After it moves into its new building in March, the company will hire four more employees.
- Advanced Input Devices (AID), the Panhandle's largest electronics company, laid off 20 employees in early March bringing its employment to 300. The layoff resulted from a slowdown in AID's sales to medical businesses.
- Jobs Plus, the Kootenai County organization that recruits businesses to Kootenai County, facilitated the relocations of Empire Airlines, All Seasons, and Verizon mentioned in last month's newsletter. In January, the group convinced North Idaho College (NIC) to discount tuition for the employees of business that move to Kootenai County and the employees' spouses and children. These individuals would be able to pay only the \$848 tuition for residents, forgoing the additional \$2,000 newcomers are required to pay the first year they live in Idaho.

*Continued on page 23*





# SEAPORT

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO: CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS, & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

In January, Seaport's *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* showed a decrease of 470 from December 2003 and a decrease of 330 jobs from January 2003. As has been the trend in previous months, small decreases were reported in almost all industries. While these decreases were small, they added up because they occurred in a large number of industries. Very few industries increased jobs, although *Manufacturing* rebounded with higher prices for lumber, paper, jet boats, and bullets, which is good news for the local economy.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Idaho & Lewis Counties

- Major changes are in the works for Snowhaven Ski Area near Grangeville. The board of directors for the Ski Area has proposed an addition of a tubing hill. The project would require installation of a new towline. As proposed, it would be located on the down face of Diamond Flats and offer a 200-foot run. It would be the longest and fastest tubing hill in the Northwest. The strategy is to have the tubing hill up and running by next ski season. But the work doesn't stop there. The tubing hill is just the first step in a long-term expansion project for the facility, which is owned by the City of Grangeville and managed by a volunteer board. The board is hoping to generate enough revenue from the tubing hill to begin to expand ski runs, build a new lodge, and install a chair lift.

### Clearwater County

- Orofino has been chosen as the Idaho community along the Lewis-Clark Trail that will unveil the new Lewis & Clark U.S. postal stamp. According to Orofino's postmaster, plans are to host the event at the Canoe Camp park May 14. The Orofino post office will accommodate what needs to be done with the stamp: selling them, hosting a first day of

Seaport Table 1: Labor Force & Employment  
Nez Perce County, Idaho and Asotin County, Washington

	Jan 2004*	Dec 2003	Jan 2003	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	36,320	36,100	36,640	0.6	-0.9
Unemployment	1,260	1,380	1,440	-8.7	-12.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.5	3.8	3.9		
Total Employment	35,060	34,720	35,200	1.0	-0.4
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	36,440	36,260	36,770	0.5	-0.9
Unemployment	1,640	1,490	1,850	10.1	-11.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.5	4.1	5.0		
Total Employment	34,800	34,770	34,920	0.1	-0.3
<b>JOB BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	26,330	26,800	26,660	-1.8	-1.2
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	4,360	4,430	4,300	-1.6	1.4
Natural Resources & Mining	210	200	240	5.0	-12.5
Construction	980	1,040	930	-5.8	5.4
Manufacturing	3,170	3,190	3,130	-0.6	1.3
Wood Product Manufacturing	560	560	590	0.0	-5.1
Food Manufacturing	60	60	100	0.0	-40.0
Paper Manufacturing	1,220	1,220	1,130	0.0	8.0
Other Manufacturing	1,330	1,350	1,310	-1.5	1.5
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	21,970	22,370	22,360	-1.8	-1.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,410	5,530	5,370	-2.2	0.7
Wholesale Trade	590	600	640	-1.7	-7.8
Retail Trade	3,550	3,670	3,490	-3.3	1.7
Utilities	90	90	80	0.0	12.5
Transportation & Warehousing	1,180	1,170	1,160	0.9	1.7
Information	350	350	380	0.0	-7.9
Financial Activities	1,820	1,820	1,870	0.0	-2.7
Professional & Business Services	1,360	1,390	1,420	-2.2	-4.2
Education & Health Services	3,970	3,950	4,010	0.5	-1.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2,450	2,570	2,470	-4.7	-0.8
Other Services	1,070	1,090	1,080	-1.8	-0.9
Government Education	2,260	2,370	2,240	-4.6	0.9
Government Administration	2,410	2,430	2,740	-0.8	-12.0
Government Tribes	870	870	780	0.0	11.5

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

issuance ceremony, and providing a first day cancellation of the stamp. Organizers of the event anticipate stamp collectors will travel from many areas to get first day cancellation stamp. A mobile post office will be provided by the postal service who also will provide postal employees to be on hand to sell the stamps and do the cancellations.

### Latah County

- The Idaho Economic Development Council (IEDC) has recommended support for a grant of up to \$500,000 for the City of Moscow. IEDC's recommendation for the Rural Community Block Grant will be made to Governor Dirk Kempthorne. Money from the grant would be used to purchase a lot in the Alturas Business Park and to

construct a 12,000-square-foot building to be leased to Advanced Hardware Architectures, Inc, a local high-tech engineering firm. It will retain 18 high-salary jobs and create eight more. The City of Moscow is the sponsor of the grant, which was written by the Clearwater Economic Development Agency and by the IDEC. The City of Moscow has agreed to administer a \$45,000 Idaho Gem Community Implementation Grant. This grant money would be used to secure financing and permits, and to begin construction.

- The company formerly known as Alchemy Ventures has received 10 mineral leases from the Idaho Department of Lands, which will allow for clay mining in eastern Latah County. The company, now called i-minerals inc., has the authority to mine for feldspar, quartz, and clay on 4,649 acres of state land outside Bovill and Helmer. The company came to Latah County in 2000 and began a mineral research project. How profitable the mining operation will be is still to be decided, but the commodity is valuable because the Bovill-Helmer area is the only feldspar site in the Pacific Northwest. Feldspar, clay, and quartz can be used for products including paint, ceramics, brick, glass, tile, and even paper.
- The Palouse Surgery Center, a 9,700-square-foot building at 2300 West A St. (on the hill above Wal-Mart) is scheduled to serve its first patients in May. Backers of the center hope it will keep the medical community unified and provide quality services in less time and at a lower cost than the hospital. Moscow's Gritman Hospital is an investor in the surgery center, however the surgery center operates as a different organization with its own board of directors. Gritman has 60 percent of the shares in the hospital while 17 Palouse-area doctors have a 40 percent stake. The 17 doctors include approximately 75 percent of the surgeons who practice in the Moscow area. The doctors will do procedures and surgeries in 11 specialties, including orthopedics, gynecology, and oral surgery, plus pain management. The new surgery center was developed in part to give surgeons with privileges at the hospital alternatives for extra work instead of operating private clinics, and to pre-empt any private, out-of-town franchises from opening a clinic in the area.

#### **Nez Perce and Asotin (WA) Counties**

- Lewiston residents could be lining up in front of a new multiscreen theater in November if a Pullman developer's plans are on schedule. Plans have been announced to develop a 36,000-square-foot 12-screen cinema complex at the Nez Perce Plaza on Lewiston's Thain Grade. The new Lewiston theaters will range in size from 78 to 225 stadium-style seats for a total capacity of 1,600 people. There also will be

a party room for birthday parties and other pre- or post-movie events.

- One of the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley's high-tech employers is likely leaving and transferring its operations to two other Washington communities. Isothermal Systems Research (ISR) wants to move about half of its 35 to 40 Clarkston employees to a research and development center in Pullman at the Port of Whitman County's industrial park. The remainder are moving to ISR's Liberty Lake, Washington, site, which opened in 2002, where a majority of the company's 130 workers are already headquartered. The Liberty Lake site focuses on engineering and development of spray-cool systems for computers. Manufacturing will be moving from Clarkston to Liberty Lake in a couple of months. The change at ISR is just one example of the shifts of high-tech jobs occurring in the region.
- Comtech AHA, which designs computer chips, is hoping to move from the Port of Whitman County industrial park to Alturas Business Technology Park in Moscow. The company employs 19 people and expects to experience gradual, sustained growth in the upcoming years. The incentive packages created for ISR in Pullman and Comtech AHA in Moscow show how far economic development organizations will go to attract high-tech jobs. The Port of Whitman County is seeking a \$600,000 loan and a \$200,000 grant from the Community Economic Revitalization Board to build a 13,800-square-foot building for ISR. The port is providing a match of cash and land totaling \$770,000. The lease rate for the building would likely be below the market rate, according to port officials. The City of Moscow hopes to receive a \$500,000 grant from the State of Idaho to help construct a 13,000-square-foot building for Comtech AHA. The entire cost of the package, including real estate acquisition, is estimated at \$1.3 million. The amount not covered by the grant will be borrowed. If the Moscow deal evaporates, Comtech AHA will likely take advantage of a similar package offered by the Port of Whitman County. Communities are willing to work hard for a single employer because high-tech companies tend to bring quality jobs to an economy. Such jobs pay well and the people who hold those jobs tend to be very involved in the community by supporting the arts and various activities. At AHA, for example, many of the jobs pay more than \$50,000 a year.

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Doug Tweedy, Regional Labor Economist  
1158 Idaho Street, Lewiston, ID 83501  
(208) 799-5000 ext. 3511  
E-mail: dtweedy@jobservice.us



# TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) average annual unemployment rate for January 2004 was 4.3 percent, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This was four-tenths of a percentage point below the December 2003 rate of 4.7 percent and seven-tenths of a percentage point below the January 2003 rate of 5.0 percent. Month-over-month, the number of employed persons increased by 2,400, or 1.0 percent, from December 2003, and the number of unemployed individuals decreased by 1,000 individuals, or 8.5 percent. The increasing number of persons employed and the decreasing number of persons unemployed created an overall decrease of 1,400 individuals, or 0.6 percent, in the *Civilian Labor Force*, from December 2003. Year-over-year, the number of employed persons increased by 4,600, or 2.0 percent, and the number of unemployed individuals decreased by 1,600 individuals or 12.9 percent, creating a net increase in the *Civilian Labor Force* of 3,000 individuals, or 1.2 percent, in the *Civilian Labor Force* from January 2003. The *Civilian Labor Force* figures for January 2004 for all

Treasure Valley Table 2: January 2004 Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for Southwest Idaho Counties				
	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	178,944	6,619	3.7	172,325
Adams	1,774	273	15.4	1,501
Boise	2,646	155	5.9	2,490
Canyon	71,105	4,189	5.9	66,916
Elmore	9,624	508	5.3	9,116
Gem	5,818	375	6.4	5,443
Owyhee	3,905	68	1.7	3,837
Payette	9,746	737	7.6	9,009
Valley	3,906	282	7.2	3,624
Washington	4,267	388	9.1	3,878
Statewide	697,363	33,761	4.8	663,602

Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Ada and Canyon Counties

	Jan 2004*	Dec 2003	Jan 2003	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	250,000	248,600	247,000	0.6	1.2
Unemployment	10,800	11,800	12,400	-8.5	-12.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.3	4.7	5.0		
Total Employment	239,200	236,800	234,600	1.0	2.0
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	248,400	248,300	245,200	0.0	1.3
Unemployment	13,200	12,000	14,700	10.0	-10.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.3	4.8	6.0		
Total Employment	235,200	236,300	230,500	-0.5	2.0
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	228,300	233,300	224,300	-2.1	1.8
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>	44,300	45,500	45,000	-2.6	-1.6
<b>Natural Resources &amp; Construction</b>	14,800	15,800	14,200	-6.3	4.2
<b>Manufacturing</b>	29,500	29,700	30,800	-0.7	-4.2
Durable Goods	22,500	22,700	23,600	-0.9	-4.7
Wood Product Manufacturing	1,600	1,600	1,900	0.0	-15.8
Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.	1,300	1,300	1,400	0.0	-7.1
Machinery Manufacturing	1,100	1,100	1,200	0.0	-8.3
Computer & Electronic Manufacturing	14,600	14,600	15,600	0.0	-6.4
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	1,500	1,400	1,500	7.1	0.0
Other Durable Goods	2,400	2,700	2,000	-11.1	20.0
Nondurable Goods	7,000	7,000	7,200	0.0	-2.8
Food Manufacturing	5,400	5,400	5,500	0.0	-1.8
Printing & Related Support Activities	700	700	700	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	900	900	1,000	0.0	-10.0
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES</b>	184,000	187,800	179,300	-2.0	2.6
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	44,000	45,300	43,500	-2.9	1.1
Trade	36,900	38,300	36,500	-3.7	1.1
Wholesale Trade	9,700	9,700	10,000	0.0	-3.0
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	6,000	5,900	6,400	1.7	-6.3
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	2,800	2,800	2,800	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	27,200	28,600	26,500	-4.9	2.6
Food & Beverage Stores	4,200	4,300	4,100	-2.3	2.4
General Merchandise Stores	6,000	6,600	5,900	-9.1	1.7
All Other Retail Trade	17,000	17,700	16,500	-4.0	3.0
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	7,100	7,000	7,000	1.4	1.4
Utilities	600	600	700	0.0	-14.3
Transportation & Warehousing	6,500	6,400	6,300	1.6	3.2
<b>Information</b>	3,900	4,000	3,900	-2.5	0.0
Telecommunications	1,400	1,400	1,400	0.0	0.0
<b>Financial Activities</b>	12,700	12,700	12,200	0.0	4.1
Finance & Insurance	9,400	9,300	9,100	1.1	3.3
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3,300	3,400	3,100	-2.9	6.5
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	32,100	32,800	30,400	-2.1	5.6
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	10,500	10,600	10,000	-0.9	5.0
Management of Companies & Ent.	5,500	5,500	5,500	0.0	0.0
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt.	16,100	16,700	14,900	-3.6	8.1
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	29,400	29,700	27,700	-1.0	6.1
Educational Services	2,300	2,600	2,300	-11.5	0.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	27,100	27,100	25,400	0.0	6.7
Hospitals	9,700	9,600	9,000	1.0	7.8
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	19,800	20,200	19,200	-2.0	3.1
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2,800	2,700	2,100	3.7	33.3
Accommodation & Food Services	17,000	17,500	17,100	-2.9	-0.6
Accommodation	1,700	2,000	2,000	-15.0	-15.0
Food Services & Drinking Places	15,300	15,500	15,100	-1.3	1.3
Other Services	6,600	6,800	6,500	-2.9	1.5
<b>Total Government</b>	35,500	36,300	35,900	-2.2	-1.1
Federal Government	5,500	5,600	5,300	-1.8	3.8
State & Local Government	30,000	30,700	30,600	-2.3	-2.0
State Government	13,000	13,500	13,200	-3.7	-1.5
State Government Education	3,800	4,100	3,900	-7.3	-2.6
State Government Administration	9,200	9,400	9,300	-2.1	-1.1
Local Government	17,000	17,200	17,400	-1.2	-2.3
Local Government Education	10,700	10,900	10,400	-1.8	2.9
Local Government Administration	6,300	6,300	7,000	0.0	-10.0

\* Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

ten counties in Southwest Idaho are shown in Treasure Valley Table 2.

In the Boise City MSA *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* decreased by 5,000 jobs, or 2.1 percent, in January 2004 while year-over-year, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* experienced a gain of 4,000 jobs, or 1.8 percent. Month-over-month, *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 1,200 jobs with job decreases noted in *Natural Resources, Mining & Construction* (-1,000 jobs) and *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (-300 jobs) while job gains were noted in *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (100 jobs). Year-over-year, *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 700 jobs with job decreases noted in *Wood Product Manufacturing* (-300 jobs), *Fabricated Metal Products Manufacturing* (-100 jobs), *Machinery Manufacturing* (-100 jobs), *Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing* (-1,000 jobs), *Food Manufacturing* (-100 jobs), and *Other Non-durable Goods Manufacturing* (-100 jobs) while job gains were noted in *Natural Resources, Mining, & Construction* (600 jobs) and *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (400 jobs).

In *Service-Providing Industries*, jobs lost outweighed jobs gained by 3,800 jobs in the Boise City MSA from December 2003 to January 2004. Job losses occurred in *Food & Beverage Stores* (-100 jobs), *General Merchandise Stores* (-600 jobs), *All Other Retail Trade* (-700 jobs), *Information Services* (-100 jobs), *Real Estate & Rental & Leasing Services* (-100 jobs), *Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services* (-100 jobs), *Administrative & Support & Waste Management Services* (-600 jobs), *Educational Services* (-300 jobs), *Accommodation Services* (-300 jobs), *Food Services & Drinking Places* (-200 jobs), *Other Services* (-200 jobs), *Federal Government* (-100 jobs), *State Government Education* (-300 jobs), *State Government Administration* (-200 jobs), and *Local Government Education* (-200 jobs). Job gains were experienced in *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100 jobs), *Transportation and Warehousing Services* (100 jobs), *Finance and Insurance* (100 jobs), *Hospitals* (100 jobs), and *Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation Services* (100 jobs). Year-over-year, *Service-Providing Industries* gained 4,700 jobs or 2.6 percent. Job gains were noted in *Food & Beverage Stores* (100 jobs), *General Merchandise Stores* (100 jobs), *All Other Retail Trade* (500 jobs), *Transportation & Warehousing Services* (200 jobs), *Finance & Insurance Services* (300 jobs), *Real Estate & Rental & Leasing Services* (200 jobs), *Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services* (500 jobs), *Administrative & Support & Waste Management Services* (1,200 jobs), *Health Care & Social Assistance Services* (1,700 jobs) including *Hospitals* (700 jobs), *Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation Services* (700 jobs), *Food Service & Drinking Places* (200 jobs), *Other Services* (100 jobs), *Federal Government* (200 jobs), and *Local Govern-*

*ment Education* (300 jobs). Job losses were noted in *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (-400 jobs), *Utilities Services* (-100 jobs), *Accommodation Services* (-300 jobs), *State Government Education* (-100 jobs), *State Government Administration* (-100 jobs), and *Local Government Administration* (-700 jobs).

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Boise City MSA

- Washington Group International (WGI) announced it was awarded a \$564 million joint-venture contract with Alberici Constructors Inc., from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the construction of a 2,700-square-foot concrete dam across the lower Ohio River.
- Epitome, a new home and garden store, opened in March near Fifth and Main Streets in downtown Boise. The store is located in the 1,600-square-foot space adjacent to the Mosaic Gallery Wine Bar that used to house Bandanna Running and Walking. Epitome is a medium- to high-end specialty store that offers interior and exterior items for the home and garden.
- State Farm Insurance announced plans in early February to cut employment at claims offices around the state and move its Boise claims service center to a building in the Boise Research Center in west Boise. The consolidation will allow the company to streamline its operation. State Farm currently operates its Boise claims service center in two 10,000-square-foot buildings on Cole Road near Emerald; it will move to 16,000-square-feet of leased space in the Brighton Plaza building on Explorer Drive. The new claims center is scheduled to open April 26 and will employ 70.
- A 17,000-square-foot expansion will soon start at the Idaho State Police headquarters in Meridian. The expansion will nearly double the amount of instructional space for the Pease Offer Standard & Training (POST) Academy. The expansion will add five large classrooms and four mock jail cells. No completion date on the project was announced.
- T-Mobile started construction on a new customer service center in the SilverStone Corporate Center on Eagle Road in Meridian. The 77,000-square-foot center could employ at least 600 full-time employees who will handle incoming customer service calls. All jobs at T-Mobile will be full time with benefits, and the pay will start between \$9.50 and \$11.00 per hour. The company plans to hire and train between 100 and 150 customer service

representatives this spring during several job fairs that will be publicized throughout the Treasure Valley and on its company website at <http://www.t-mobile.com/>. T-Mobile will open the service center during Summer 2004 and hire additional employees in December 2005.

- Washington Trust Bank announced plans to build a 17,700-square-foot building in Meridian. The building will house a Washington Trust branch as well as all of the real estate lending functions for the bank. The building will be located in the Eagle & Pine Crossing development. Construction is scheduled to start this spring and be finished by January 2005.
- A mixed-use development is planned on a 31,000-acre area in the foothills north of Eagle. Several community villages that are separated by open space and linked by hiking and biking trails and pedestrian areas will characterize the proposed planned community. Over the next few months, SunCor, the Phoenix-based developer, will hold a series of meetings with neighborhood associations and other interested parties. SunCor will submit plans for the development to the county in April.
- Costco announced plans to open a new 146,000-square-foot retail outlet in Nampa in 2006. The store will anchor a new 75-acre retail center north of Interstate 84 and Karcher Road. The retail center will include more than 700,000-square feet of building space that will include three other large retail buildings, a mid-sized retail building, and 10 smaller shop and restaurant structures. The retail center is not scheduled to open until the summer/fall of 2006, when the Karcher Road interchange at I-84 will be completed.
- Nampa Mayor Tom Dale gave his annual State of the City address in mid-February. Dale focused the address on past accomplishments and future needs of the Nampa community. Past accomplishments include a 5.0 percent increase in commercial development over the previous year, increased community cleanup efforts, and a joint project with other valley communities to develop a website promoting economic development. The future needs that Dale spoke about included a \$40 million bond election on May 25 for planned public works projects, including a railroad overpass at Kings Corner, the redevelopment of Garrity Boulevard, and utility service to an industrial area north of the interstate for economic development.

Overall, Mayor Dale's responses were positive and the future for Nampa is very bright.

- The Boulevard Station, a mixed-use development, is planned for the corner of Middleton Road and the Nampa-Caldwell Boulevard in Nampa. The development will include a 9,000-square-foot retail center, office buildings, and a funeral home. Businesses have already started to look at the site, including a coffee shop, hair salon, video store, and pizza restaurant. Construction on the project is expected to start this spring.
- The Canyon County Sheriff's Office announced plans in early February to open two shooting ranges on a 40-acre parcel of land south of Lake Lowell. One range will be for private use by police officers in Nampa and Caldwell, and the other shooting range will be for public use. The public range will be open daily from sunrise to sunset. Both ranges will have sections for rifles, handguns, and shotguns.
- The Middleton School District announced in early February that it had purchased a 60-acre site for the new high school. The site is located on the southeast corner of Willis and Emmett Roads in Middleton. The school will not be needed immediately, but the district is planning for the predicted increase of 1,500 students that are expected to move into the area within the next ten years. The new high school would accommodate twice the number of students of the current high school.
- Other recent business happenings in the Boise City MSA include: The Chocolat Bar, an organic chocolate shop, opened in on Ninth Street in downtown Boise; Wellcoaches, an osteopathic manipulative medicine and wellness coaching center moved to a new location in downtown Boise; the American Red Cross of Greater Idaho moved into new office space in the BoDo development in downtown Boise; McMillenBuckley Inc., an investment consulting firm in Boise, changed its name to McMillen & Associates Inc.; Al's Car Care of Boise is scheduled to start construction on a new auto repair shop on West Fairview Avenue in Boise; Lyle Pearson Premier Motorcars opened the first Jaguar dealership in the Boise Auto Mall in west Boise; Family Dental Center is scheduled for construction in the Mahogany Office Park in west Boise; a one-story retail building is scheduled for construction in the Town & Country shopping center on Fairview

Avenue in west Boise; Charlie Frog Schools, a child-care facility, is scheduled for construction in the Town & Country shopping center on Fairview Avenue in west Boise; KeyBank announced plans to build a new branch in the El Dorado Business Campus in Meridian; Meridian Soccer Property LLC purchased 1.75 acres to construct an indoor soccer arena in the Stonebridge Business Park in Meridian; two additional office buildings are scheduled for construction in the Eagle River Development in Eagle; Backstreet Architectural opened a new architectural firm on Academy Avenue in Eagle; Golden Corral is scheduled to start construction in early spring on a new restaurant planned on Cassia Street in Nampa; Jack in the Box announced plans to build a new eatery in the Northgate Shopping Center at State and Glenwood Streets in Boise; Pizzalchik announced plans to open a new quick-service restaurant in the Gary Lane Plaza in northwest Boise; and Poblano's, a Mexican restaurant, opened in the Boise City National Bank building at Eighth and Idaho Streets in downtown Boise.

#### **Adams County**

- A public meeting was held at the Meadows Valley Public Library in New Meadows for a discussion on downtown revitalization and beautification of New Meadows. Sage Community Resources presented information on funding sources for the projects. A Downtown Revitalization Committee was formed and after the meeting, the committee prepared a survey for New Meadows residents that would focus on the downtown area. Before applying for funds, organizers said New Meadows citizens need to decide on a vision for the downtown area.

#### **Elmore County**

- In late February, the city of Mountain Home proposed a \$1.5 million bond election that, if passed, would expand the current library. The proposed expansion would include a reading area featuring a coffee bar, a patio area that will provide an additional gathering place for Mountain Home residents, and a multipurpose meeting room. The coffee bar and meeting room are possible revenue generating areas for the library. No date has been set for the bond election.
- The Western Elmore County Recreation District (WECRD), after gaining approval of a conditional use permit by the Elmore County Planning and Zoning Commission in February, plans to purchase a ten-acre site on S. 18th East Street in Mountain Home for a community center/family

recreation center. WECRD directors and volunteers continue to search for grants and funding options that will allow construction to start on the \$10,000,000 project.

#### **Payette County**

- The City of Fruitland recently updated its Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map. The updated plans visualize commercial development along U.S. 95 between downtown and Interstate 84, which is currently dominated by agricultural land. The new plan includes a variety of uses including commercial, industrial, multi-family housing, and single-family housing.

#### **Valley County**

- The McCall Winter Carnival was held in late January and early February. Large crowds attended the ten-day event that featured parades, contests, snow sculptures, and many fun activities. Area restaurants, stores, and lodging establishments benefited from the influx of tourists in McCall for the annual event.
- Tamarack Resort sold out of its initial offering of 104 custom homes and lots, which generated \$46 million for the resort. Idaho residents took the majority of the homes/sites, grabbing 38 percent of the initial offering while residents of other states and countries took the remaining sites. Tamarack officials will put another 68 sites for sale this year. Tamarack is the first ski resort to be built in the United States in two decades. Synthesis Realty Group, a real estate consulting firm hired by Tamarack developers called this initial offering the "largest resort site launch ever in North America." Tamarack plans to open its ski hill in Winter 2005.
- Dr. Kurt Markuson is the new owner of Cascade Family Dentistry in Cascade. Dr. Markuson bought the practice from Dr. Randy Moss in December, and will be in Cascade on Thursdays and Fridays.
- Indulgence Day Spa & Salon in McCall recently added two new members to its staff. Indulgence offers a number of services including haircuts, coloring, perms, full-body waxing, facials, manicures, and pedicures. The business is located on Park Street across from the McCall fire station.

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Jennifer Pirtle, Regional Labor Economist  
 205 E. Watertower Lane, Meridian, ID 83642  
 (208) 364-7785, ext. 3599  
 E-mail: jpirtle@jobservice.us



# MAGIC VALLEY

BLAINE, CAMAS, CASSIA, GOODING, JEROME, LINCOLN, MINIDOKA, & TWIN FALLS COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Magic Valley Labor Market Area was 3.9 percent in January 2004 as shown in Table 1. This was one-tenth of a percentage point higher than December 2003, but three-tenths of a percentage point lower than January 2003. The *Civilian Labor Force* increased 5,130, or 9.8 percent, year-over-year. This increase in *Civilian Labor Force*, coupled with a relatively flat number of unemployed persons, indicated a robust labor economy.

Sector analysis shows strong increases in some areas. *Professional & Business Services* showed a very high increase of 34.1 percent. However, much of this increase was due to outsourcing jobs to temporary worker agencies and represented merely a shift in sectors rather than a huge gain. The *Construction* sector showed undeniable gains as both commercial construction projects and housing projects were strong due to low interest rates and the overall strength of the Magic Valley LMA economy attracting market-driven businesses in *Retail* and *Services*. *Retail Trade* was impressive with an 8.5 percent gain year-over-year.

Sectors that had large decreases were the *Natural Resources & Mining* and *Transportation* sectors with declines of 50.0 percent and 20.9 percent, respectively. In South Central Idaho, *Natural Resources & Mining* generally consists of rock crushing preparatory to road building; *Transportation* was down due to severe winter weather conditions.

## 2004 Outlook: Sector Analysis

The outlook for agriculture is very guarded for 2004. External pressures have put some strain on the agricultural markets. A serious water curtailment in five South Central Idaho counties was avoided with a last minute deal made among several people representing dairymen, municipalities, small farmers, and aquaculture interests that will only last one year. The reality of groundwater

Magic Valley Table 1: Labor Force & Employment  
Twin Falls, Jerome, and Gooding Counties

	Dec 2003*	Nov 2003	Dec 2002	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	57,530	57,010	52,400	0.9	9.8
Unemployment	2,220	2,190	2,190	1.4	1.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.9	3.8	4.2		
Total Employment	55,310	54,820	50,210	0.9	10.2
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	55,950	57,050	50,910	-1.9	9.9
Unemployment	2,760	2,370	2,650	16.5	4.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.9	4.2	5.2		
Total Employment	53,190	54,680	48,260	-2.7	10.2
<b>JOB BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	43,800	44,610	38,840	-1.8	12.8
<b>Goods-Providing Industries</b>	7,730	7,760	6,690	-0.4	15.5
Natural Resources & Mining	20	20	40	0.0	-50.0
Construction	2,410	2,630	1,710	-8.4	40.9
Manufacturing	5,300	5,110	4,940	3.7	7.3
Food Manufacturing	3,440	3,510	3,040	-2.0	13.2
Other Manufacturing	1,860	1,600	1,900	16.3	-2.1
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	36,070	36,850	32,150	-2.1	12.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	10,100	9,950	9,840	1.5	2.6
Wholesale Trade	1,870	1,940	1,700	-3.6	10.0
Retail Trade	6,240	6,200	5,750	0.6	8.5
Utilities	250	270	190	-7.4	31.6
Transportation & Warehousing	1,740	1,540	2,200	13.0	-20.9
Information	500	490	500	2.0	0.0
Financial Activities	1,740	1,790	1,650	-2.8	5.5
Professional & Business Services	6,410	7,130	4,780	-10.1	34.1
Educational & Health Services	3,660	3,820	3,030	-4.2	20.8
Leisure & Hospitality	3,650	3,520	3,240	3.7	12.7
Other Services	1,520	1,500	1,460	1.3	4.1
Government Education	3,980	4,060	3,670	-2.0	8.4
Government Administration	4,510	4,590	3,980	-1.7	13.3

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

conservation has many farmers who rely on such water delivery systems rethinking crop mixes and opting for shorter growing season crops such as grains, hay, corn, etc. Restriction of junior water rights will probably severely limit new dairy expansion and that industry will remain stable in the Magic Valley LMA. If any dairy expansion takes place in South Central Idaho, it will probably occur in the Mini-Cassia area where economic development plans include attracting an ice cream or cheese processor to the area. This will require about 75,000 more head of dairy cattle. However, milk prices have been rising, which is good news for dairy farmers who have had slow demand for product. Demand should increase if the fragile recovery continues and consumer confidence strengthens. Beef prices remain a concern. They had been increasing significantly due to a major increase in demand, partially attributed to consumers eating less carbohydrate-rich foods. However, beef markets were rocked with the news that

mad cow disease had been discovered in American cattle. This caused an immediate dip in domestic demand and export markets virtually dried up overnight. The outlook is very guarded for 2004, and the recovery of those markets depends on whether there is confidence that government and producer measures have alleviated the risk. It is expected for cattle prices to remain at break-even prices, or slightly below in 2004. Other meat markets such as pork, lamb, poultry, and trout are expected to be fairly strong as consumers shift demand.

General agricultural commodities will be a mixed bag. A major concern is the potato market. Currently potato processors are reporting large carryovers in 2003 inventory. The processed potato market has been affected by a couple of major factors. First, the Atkins Diet and other carbohydrate-limiting diet plans have had a significant impact on potato markets and prices are fairly anemic. Ironically, the mad cow disease situation also impacts processed potato markets since some products are dipped in beef tallow and consumers are fearful that those products might not be safe. Potato contracts will be down this year. The closure of the J. R. Simplot Plant in Heyburn and the increase in inventory means that processors will not have as many contracts this year. Farmers will have to choose whether to sell potatoes on the open market or produce less of that commodity. It is expected that acreage will be less. Sugar beets will probably have slightly less acreage and prices will be uncertain until the effects of the Central American Trade Agreement are sorted out. Other commodities should be average and the water supply seems to be adequate unless there is some impact from voluntary groundwater curtailment.

*Construction* should continue to be a bright spot, especially in western Magic Valley. The Federal Reserve has voted not to raise interest rates thus far in 2004 and that bodes well for the housing market. The City of Twin Falls shattered new housing start records in 2003 and construction will begin on those homes as the weather improves. Commercial construction is expected to be strong again in 2004 with new light manufacturing plants and retailers expected to build. With the recent donation of the Simplot Plant to the City of Burley, construction could be considerable in Mini-Cassia if economic development contacts work out. The construction sector is a very good economic stimulator. Not only do the new businesses that are built result in new jobs, but the construction jobs themselves typically are higher paying and contribute to the overall strength of the economy.

Once again, market-driven sectors are expected to be the fastest growing in South Central Idaho. The extremely robust economy of the western Magic Valley has induced many retailers and food service operators to locate in the area, especially in Twin Falls. This trend is

not expected to stop and several new jobs should be created. The drawback of retail and service sector jobs are that they are typically the lowest-paying in the economy, but it is hoped that supply and demand will cause some natural wage increases to reach equilibrium.

Light manufacturing is expected to be somewhat stable in 2004. A new company, Hydro-Fittings, Inc., is planning to build a facility in the industrial area of Twin Falls. This will create 30 to 40 new jobs. Light manufacturing is high on the list of industries targeted by economic development agencies and it is hoped that more will come to the area since these are typically high-paying jobs with benefits.

Tourism outlook is difficult to predict. The Sun Valley area had excellent snow conditions with good bookings this winter. The major concern in South Central Idaho is the rapidly increasing gasoline prices. Sun Valley has good airline connections, but the rest of South Central Idaho is very dependent on motor vehicle travel. Prices have risen approximately 20 cents per gallon in the mid-March and this has affected all industries, but this will have a particular impact on tourism if it continues. Forest conditions for camping should be fairly good, although the spring has been warm and dry so far.

Finally, low unemployment should continue in western Magic Valley and Blaine County, but will continue to be high in the Mini-Cassia area. However, improvement is expected in that area by the second half of the year. The economy in all areas appears to be improving, although the Magic Valley LMA will be hard pressed to improve on 2003. Consumer confidence is growing and the recovery seems to be slow but sustained. Agricultural employment is expected to be slightly below average and the season is expected to be shorter due to farmers switching to shorter growing season crops. The groundwater curtailment has already affected the H-2A hiring in the Mini-Cassia area. The overall outlook is for sustained but slow recovery in Mini-Cassia and continued strong performance in the Magic Valley LMA.

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Gregory Rogers, Regional Labor Economist  
771 N. College Road, Twin Falls, ID 83303  
(208) 735-2500, ext. 3639  
E-mail: [grogers@jobservice.us](mailto:grogers@jobservice.us)





# SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January 2004 was 4.8 percent, unchanged from the December 2003 revised rate, as shown in Southeast Idaho Table 1. From one year ago, the MSA's January unemployment rate fell seven-tenths of a percentage point from 5.5 percent in January 2003. The MSA's January unemployment rate matched the state's rate of 4.8 percent, but was significantly lower than the national rate of 5.6 percent.

*Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* decreased by 760 in January 2004 to 32,440 from December 2003 when it was 33,200. Severe snowstorms, school closures, and the end of the active holiday season reduced jobs in several industries. Most job reductions were seasonal changes that typically occur this time of year. In the *Goods-Producing Industries*, most job reductions occurred in *Construction* (90) because the area experienced the worst (or best, depending on perspective) snowstorms in several years. Record snowfall halted new construction projects, but helped local ski areas and established a good base of snow pack for spring runoff to contribute to area rivers and reservoirs. In the *Service-Providing Industries*, job reductions occurred in *Retail Trade* (180), *Professional & Business Services* (190), *Leisure & Hospitality* (150), and *Government Education* (230). The job reductions were mostly temporary jobs added in November and December to assist with the busy holiday shopping season and holiday parties. Job reductions in *Government Education* were low because Idaho State University was not back to full capacity after semester break.

From one year ago, the number of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* was unchanged. The number of jobs in the *Goods-Producing Industries* fell by 240 to 3,840 from January 2003. Inclement weather in January 2003 played a major role in job losses in *Construction* (180) because milder weather in 2002 allowed more construction activity to occur during the month. The number of jobs in the *Service-Providing Industries* rose by 240 to 26,600 from January 2003. Increased

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment  
Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)

	Dec 2003*	Nov 2003	Dec 2002	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b><i>Seasonally Adjusted</i></b>					
Civilian Labor Force	39,980	40,050	40,020	-0.2	-0.1
Unemployment	1,900	1,920	2,190	-1.0	-13.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.8	4.8	5.5		
Total Employment	38,080	38,130	37,820	-0.1	0.7
<b><i>Unadjusted</i></b>					
Civilian Labor Force	40,860	40,050	40,460	2.0	1.0
Unemployment	2,290	2,020	2,530	13.4	-9.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.6	5.0	6.3		
Total Employment	38,570	38,030	37,930	1.4	1.7
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	32,440	33,200	32,440	-2.3	0.0
<b><i>Goods-Producing Industries</i></b>	3,840	3,920	4,080	-2.0	-5.9
Natural Resources & Mining	10	10	10	0.0	0.0
Construction	1,340	1,430	1,520	-6.3	-11.8
Manufacturing	2,490	2,480	2,550	0.4	-2.4
Food Manufacturing	390	410	450	-4.9	-13.3
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	110	110	100	0.0	10.0
Machinery Manufacturing	30	30	30	0.0	0.0
Other Manufacturing	1,960	1,930	1,970	1.6	-0.5
<b><i>Service-Providing Industries</i></b>	28,600	29,280	28,360	-2.3	0.8
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	6,700	6,620	6,580	1.2	1.8
Wholesale Trade	1,030	1,040	1,000	-1.0	3.0
Retail Trade	4,390	4,570	4,320	-3.9	1.6
Utilities	40	40	50	0.0	-20.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,240	970	1,210	27.8	2.5
Information	650	660	610	-1.5	6.6
Financial Activities	1,820	1,850	1,900	-1.6	-4.2
Professional & Business Services	3,200	3,390	3,560	-5.6	-10.1
Educational & Health Services	2,600	2,690	2,790	-3.3	-6.8
Leisure & Hospitality	3,160	3,310	3,180	-4.5	-0.6
Other Services	910	950	800	-4.2	13.8
Government Education	5,310	5,540	5,140	-4.2	3.3
Government Administration	4,250	4,280	3,800	-0.7	11.8

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

confidence in the nation's economy contributed to increased hiring in *Wholesale Trade* (30), *Retail Trade* (70), *Transportation* (30), and *Other Services* (110) over January 2002.

## SPECIAL TOPIC: 2000 Census, Population Migration

Job creation results from the relationship of population, labor force, and the demand for goods and services, among other things. Population growth influences the demand for goods and services. The demand for goods and services, in turn, influences jobs in industries that provide those goods and services. Population changes occur because of two events: Natural changes and Migration:

- Natural changes = Births and deaths
- Migration = People moving out of or into an area

**Southeast Idaho Table 2: Population Migration  
1995 - 2000**

County	Inflow	Outflow	#Change
<b>Bannock</b>	15,685	17,915	-2,230
<b>Bear Lake</b>	1,080	1,415	-335
<b>Bingham</b>	5,923	8,644	-2,721
<b>Caribou</b>	1,078	1,717	-639
<b>Franklin</b>	2,026	2,208	-182
<b>Oneida</b>	634	743	-109
<b>Power</b>	1,330	1,900	-570
<b>Southeast Id.</b>	27,756	34,542	-6,786

Natural changes occur based on the number of births and deaths, typically counted within a geographical location such as a state, county, or city. Positive natural population growth occurs when the number of births exceed the number of deaths. Migratory changes are based on the number of people who move into a geographical location and the number of people who leave the same geographical location. Positive population migration growth occurs when the number of people moving into a geographical area exceeds the number of people moving out of a geographical area.

From 1990 to 2000, Southeast Idaho's population grew 12.9 percent. Most growth occurred from 1990 to 1995 when the area's population grew 9.7 percent compared to 2.9 percent growth between 1995 and 2000. Between 1990 and 2000, four Southeast Idaho counties experienced double-digit population growth: Bannock (14.4 percent), Bingham (11.0 percent), Franklin (22.7 percent), and Oneida (18.1 percent). The other three Southeast Idaho counties grew at a much slower rate: Bear Lake (5.4 percent), Caribou (4.9 percent), and Power (6.4 percent). Population growth fell fairly dramatically between 1995 and 2000. Only Franklin County maintained double-digit population growth (11.5 percent). Four counties experienced positive but slower population growth: Bannock (2.7 percent), Bingham (2.9 percent), Caribou (0.3 percent), and Oneida (7.3 percent). Bear Lake and Power Counties experienced population losses at -0.5 percent and -2.7 percent, respectively.

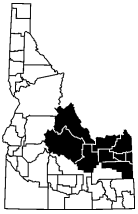
The 2000 U.S. Census gathered information on where people lived in 1995 and in 2000 to show population migration. The data shows that the decrease in population growth from 1995 to 2000 was primarily because out-migration exceeded in-migration. Southeast Idaho Table 2 shows the number of people who moved out of Southeast Idaho counties between 1995 and 2000 was 34,542, which exceeded the number of people who moved into Southeast Idaho by 6,786. Every county experienced higher out-migration than in-migration except Franklin and Oneida Counties. Both in-migration and out-migration involved mostly other counties in Idaho, and Utah and California. Southeast Idaho Table 3 shows the top five locations where population migrated from and top five locations where population migrated to for each of the Southeast counties.

**Southeast Idaho Table 3: Population Migration  
1995 - 2000**

County	In-migration from	Total	Out-migration to	Total
<b>Bannock</b>	Other Idaho Counties	7,244	Other Idaho Counties	7,574
	Utah	1,795	Utah	1,765
	California	1,189	Washington	952
	Wisconsin	730	California	914
	Oregon	457	Arizona	691
<b>Bear Lake</b>	Utah	370	Other Idaho Counties	397
	Other Idaho Counties	251	Utah	341
	California	106	California	125
	Washington	90	Colorado	102
	Nevada	65	Wyoming	72
<b>Bingham</b>	Other Idaho Counties	3,614	Other Idaho Counties	4,956
	California	369	Utah	1,119
	Oregon	148	Arizona	359
	Nevada	147	Washington	255
	Arizona	103	California	198
<b>Caribou</b>	Other Idaho Counties	421	Other Idaho Counties	758
	Utah	199	Utah	362
	Wyoming	58	Wyoming	88
	California	55	Ohio	81
	Texas	54	Colorado	69
<b>Franklin</b>	Utah	1,169	Utah	941
	Other Idaho Counties	396	Other Idaho Counties	728
	California	91	Arizona	135
	Wyoming	77	California	115
	Texas	48	Georgia	43
<b>Oneida</b>	Utah	350	Utah	324
	Other Idaho Counties	56	Other Idaho Counties	304
	California	39	Wyoming	47
	Washington	18	Iowa	20
	Nevada	17	Oregon	16
<b>Power</b>	Other Idaho Counties	857	Other Idaho Counties	1,119
	Arizona	71	Utah	159
	Utah	68	Washington	113
	Washington	60	Oregon	98
	Wyoming	55	Arizona	91

Since 2000, population in Southeast Idaho has grown very slowly or decreased. Since job creation results from the relationship between population and the demand for goods and services, positive population growth is needed throughout Southeast Idaho. Communities could benefit from learning why people move to and from their communities, and work toward reversing negative population flow.

Shelley Allen, Regional Labor Economist  
430 N. 5th Avenue, Pocatello, ID 83205  
(208) 236-6710, ext. 3713  
E-mail: [sallen@jobservice.us](mailto:sallen@jobservice.us)



# NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for the Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) decreased two-tenths of a percentage point from December 2003 to January 2004 while *Total Employment* gained almost 1,200 persons over the month and the number of unemployed persons decreased by 140, as seen in Northeast Idaho Table 1. Increases in the unemployment rates of both Butte and Bingham Counties were counteracted by decreases in both Bonneville and Jefferson Counties. Year-over-year, the unemployment rate in the LMA decreased five-tenths of a percentage point as *Total Employment* increased by almost 1,600 and the number of unemployed decreased by 400. All four counties experienced decreases in unemployment rates compared to December 2003. The unemployment rate for Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, decreased four-tenths of a percentage point over the month and year-over-year.

Of the remaining six area counties not included in the LMA, all showed year-over-year unemployment rate decreases with the exception of Clark County, which remained the same. Madison County had the lowest unemployment rate at 1.7 percent while Custer County showed the highest rate at 6.8 percent. The average unemployment rate for all nine counties in Northeast Idaho was 3.4 percent in January 2004, 1.4 percentage points lower than the state's rate of 4.8 percent and 2.2 percentage points lower than the national rate of 5.6 percent.

*Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* decreased by 1,660 in the LMA over the month with the largest losses occurring in *Construction* and *Retail Trade*, each losing 480 jobs. This is to be expected at a time that *Retail* ends its big holiday season and winter deepens, with weather halting many *Construction* jobs. *Wholesale Trade* is the only industry to show an increase (30 jobs) over the month. Year-over-year, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 1,340 jobs. Larger gains were noted in *Professional & Business Services* (520 jobs), *Educational & Health Services* (440 jobs), *Retail Trade* (310 jobs), and *Construction* (300 jobs). The largest decrease was

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment  
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, and Jefferson Counties

	Jan 2004*	Dec 2003	Jan 2003	% Change From Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	85,300	84,280	84,130	1.4	1.2
Unemployment	2,960	3,100	3,360	-11.9	-4.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.5	3.7	4.0		
Total Employment	82,340	81,180	80,770	1.9	1.4
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	83,510	83,690	82,330	1.4	-0.2
Unemployment	3,630	3,160	4,020	-9.7	14.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.4	3.8	4.9		
Total Employment	79,880	80,530	78,320	2.0	-0.8
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	63,820	65,480	62,480	-2.5	2.1
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	9,140	9,630	9,450	-5.1	-3.3
Natural Resources & Mining	50	60	50	-16.7	0.0
Construction	4,340	4,820	4,040	-10.0	7.4
Manufacturing	4,750	4,750	5,360	0.0	-11.4
Food Manufacturing	2,760	2,740	3,040	0.7	-9.2
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	260	260	250	0.0	4.0
Machinery Manufacturing	400	400	450	0.0	-11.1
Other Manufacturing	1,330	1,350	1,620	-1.5	-17.9
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	54,680	55,850	53,010	-2.1	3.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	15,070	15,550	14,510	-3.1	3.9
Wholesale Trade	5,180	5,150	4,980	0.6	4.0
Retail Trade	8,070	8,550	7,760	-5.6	4.0
Utilities	120	120	110	0.0	9.1
Transportation	1,700	1,730	1,660	-1.7	2.4
Information	910	930	920	-2.2	-1.1
Financial Activities	2,170	2,170	2,110	0.0	2.8
Professional & Business Services	11,750	11,960	11,230	-1.8	4.6
Educational & Health Services	6,650	6,660	6,210	-0.2	7.1
Leisure & Hospitality	5,000	5,290	4,900	-5.5	2.0
Other Services	2,030	2,080	2,290	-2.4	-11.4
Government Education	5,050	5,080	5,040	-0.6	0.2
Government Administration	6,050	6,130	5,780	-1.3	4.7

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

noted in *Manufacturing* (610 jobs) in which *Food Manufacturing* and *Other Manufacturing* shared almost equal losses.

## SPECIAL TOPIC: Annual Labor Force Data Comparisons

According to annual benchmarked numbers for 2002 and 2003, eight of the nine counties in Northeast Idaho experienced increases in *Total Employment* from 2002 to 2003. Bonneville County's *Civilian Labor Force* increased 2.2 percent over the year (1,070 people), now at 49,834. *Total Unemployed* decreased by 82 people while *Total Employment* increased by 1,153, with an accompanying decrease in the unemployment rate from 3.6 percent to 3.3 percent. Bonneville County ranks fourth in the state for *Total Employment* growth on an average basis from 2002 to 2003 with only Twin Falls, Bannock, and Nez Perce Counties ranking higher. Custer County added 275 people in *Total Employment* and ex-

perienced a decrease of 1.7 percentage points in the unemployment rate—a reflection of economic development, which has become a priority in the county. Teton County followed with a *Total Employment* growth of 193 and a decrease in the unemployment rate of one-tenth of a percentage point. Next is Lemhi County with a *Total Employment* growth of 166 and a decrease in unemployment rate of six-tenths of a percentage point. Madison County showed a growth of 154 in *Total Employment* and decreased one-tenth of a percentage point in the unemployment rate. Jefferson County showed *Total Employment* growth of 143 with three-tenths of a percentage point unemployment rate decrease. Butte and Clark Counties had minimal employment growth, while Fremont County was the only county to show a decrease in *Total Employment* (32 people). Butte County was the only county in Northeast Idaho to show an annual increase in the unemployment rate (five-tenths of a percentage point increase to 4.8 percent) as INEEL layoffs have affected some residents in 2003. Butte County only showed an increase of nine people in total unemployment, but because the county has such a small *Civilian Labor Force*, it does not take a large numerical change to become noticeable in a percent change. As a whole, Northeast Idaho gained 2,076 people in *Total Employment* and lost 145 people in total unemployment over the year. The *Civilian Labor Force* for 2003 was 89,351.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Bonneville County

- Seventeenth Street in Idaho Falls is the site of two projects within a block of each other. The former Kenny Rogers Roasters location that has been unoccupied will be reopening in a few months as Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC). Remodeling is now underway and the new location will give KFC additional space for seating and parking, along with an easier entrance from the busy Seventeenth Street than its current location, which is a quarter mile away on the same street. Just across the street, Lowe's is still under construction as the town watches heavy equipment lift and place large metal beams for structural support. The business could potentially open by summer, although an anticipated opening date hasn't been announced.
- The end of East Twenty-Fifth Street is about to change with the addition of a strip mall. Chicago-based General Growth Properties, which owns the Grand Teton Mall, is constructing the new strip mall located behind Porter's and the unoccupied United Furniture Warehouse. The vacant building will be torn down to give visibility to the strip mall. Ross Dress for Less and Best Buy are the first announced retailers for the space. Ross specializes in apparel, accessories, and footwear for all genders and ages. Best Buy specializes in selling electronics, computers, entertainment software, and appliances.
- Little Miracles Childcare and Preschool Center moved from its Broadway Avenue location to Taylor Crossing on the River, 866 Milligan Road, where it now enjoys

4,800-square feet of new space. Owner Nancy Franco is using high tech to keep her clients satisfied. An Internet day care web cam allows parents to use their personal and secure password to access cameras so they can see their children at any time of the day from a computer Internet connection. The center includes a large indoor playground; another large outdoor playground is to be installed soon. Background checks are conducted on all employees and all are CPR certified. Hours are 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. weekdays, and Saturday 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The number is 528-8577.

- Woodbury Corporation has purchased over 90 acres of property at the southeast corner of Hitt and Sunnyside Roads in Ammon. A house and out buildings will be removed for the corporation to develop the land. Because this location is only a quarter of a mile from Edwards Cinemas, it will be prime commercial property.

### Teton County

- Teton Valley finally has its own radio station. Unable to get good reception due to its location between the Tetons and the Big Hole Mountains, the county has virtually been without music until Ted Austin Jr. began operating KCHQ at 102.1 FM (Q102) in Driggs in mid-February. The station is accessible from Teton, Fremont, and Madison Counties. It will feature country music, which was what residents indicated as their music preference in a poll that was conducted in all three counties. Austin has been involved with radio since the 1970s when his father founded KIGO and KADQ. Although Austin sold both of these in the 1980s, he repurchased both between 1987 and 1999 and sold them again in 2002. He has been working on making KCHQ operational since 1997. Dave Plourde, the new director and operations manager, is already known by many as the voice from Rexburg's KADQ where he was the station manager since the 1980s until it was sold in 2002. He has worked in the radio business in Idaho, Colorado, and Oklahoma since the early 1970s. Both Austin and Plourde are excited to have the station up and running.
- Bergmeyer Manufacturing in Diggs was awarded a \$500,000 state grant to help purchase state-of-the-art design software and computer-controlled woodworking equipment. The money is part of the Idaho Rural Initiative. President Mori Bergmeyer anticipates doubling his workforce over the next three years, as production will increase with the new equipment. The company was founded in 1993 and makes custom wood furniture.

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Tanya Albán, Regional Labor Economist  
150 Shoup Avenue, Idaho Falls, ID 83402  
(208) 557-2500, ext. 3587  
E-mail: talban@jobservice.us

# F.Y.I.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PAYOUT TOPS \$200 MILLION IN 2003

Idaho Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants received a total of \$206,811,629 in 2003. This was a decrease of 4.9 percent from 2002 when a record \$217.4 million was paid out. This decrease is reflective of the improved employment picture experienced in 2003.

FYI Table 1 on page 22 provides the county-by-county details of UI benefits paid in 2003. This table includes the various UI programs that were operative during 2003: the regular or basic program, programs for unemployed federal government workers and ex-military members, workers unemployed due to international trade imbalances, and an extended benefits program—Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation (TEUC).

Unemployed workers must qualify as eligible to receive benefits, and the amount they can receive is based upon their work history. Eligibility is complicated, but essentially is extended to persons who worked for an employer(s) (who had to pay UI taxes or was "covered") for a sufficient time (two of the last five quarters of a year) and earned a minimum amount, but became unemployed through no fault of their own, who is available for work, and is looking for work. After a claimant's basic eligibility is determined, the claimant's wage history is used to determine a benefit amount and duration.

The minimum benefit amount for a claimant in 2003 was \$51.00 per week. The maximum amount was \$316.00 per week until June 30, 2003, and \$320.00 per week thereafter. The minimum benefit period was 10 weeks and the maximum was 26 weeks for the basic program. The TEUC program extended the regular benefit period by one-half the number of weeks of basic entitlement.

The factors that determine the total benefits paid out by the program includes the number of claimants, duration of claim period, and weekly benefit amount; it is not based just on the number of claimants. For example, FYI Table 1 on page 22 shows that Cassia and Shoshone Counties had almost an equal number of persons receiving first payments: 1,427 and 1,444, respectively, giving Shoshone 17 more claimants. Cassia County claimants had a longer average duration of weeks paid resulting in greater number of total weeks paid. Yet the total amount of benefits paid in Shoshone

County exceeded that of Cassia County by slightly more than \$150,000. The primary difference in the counties' UI experience is that claimants in Shoshone County received an average weekly benefit amount of \$213.86 compared to Cassia's \$191.87. The reason these amounts differ is that Shoshone County historically has had employment in higher-paying industries of mining, government, and some forest products. Cassia County is agriculture-based. Shoshone County's average annual covered wage is about \$2,000 more than Cassia County's and, presumably, this is reflected in the average benefit amount.

Ada and Canyon Counties, or the Boise MSA, combined to have about 36 percent of the first payment claimants and 38 percent of the weeks claimed. This proportion is roughly the same as the MSA's share of the state's labor force and employment. However, the MSA's share of total benefits was 40 percent of the total. Ada County had the longest average duration at 14.18 weeks and one of the higher average benefit amounts at \$239.78. Ada County experienced an industry-wide employment downturn in its electronics manufacturing industries and those who lost their jobs were often relatively high-paid. Because it was an industry-wide downturn, there were fewer opportunities for the laid-off workers to find similar jobs, hence the longer duration.

## REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

One way to measure the relative strength of an area's economy is to compare it with other areas. Unemployment rates are often used as a comparative measure. Idaho has fared better than some of its western neighbors as shown on FYI Table 2 on page 23.

## Selected Economic Indicators

FYI Table 3 on page 24 presents another set of comparative economic statistics: Idaho and the United States. The table shows that for the last six years, Idaho has fared better than the nation on most of the indicators. The exception is Idaho's unemployment rate for 1998 to 2000.

Readers who are interested in a more detailed economic indicator package as well as projections of how the state's economy might fare between now and 2007 are encouraged to read the latest *Idaho Economic Forecast* prepared by the economists in the Division of Fi-

*Continued on page 24*

FYI Table 1: Amount of Idaho Unemployment Insurance Payments by County, CY2003—All Entitlements

FIPS	County	Number of Weeks Paid	Dollar Amount Paid	Individuals Receiving First Payment	Average Weeks Paid Per Individual	Average Weekly Benefit Amount
1	Ada	218,374	\$52,361,660	15,401	14.18	239.78
3	Adams	6,138	1,376,378	469	13.09	224.24
5	Bannock	52,451	11,313,675	4,080	12.86	215.70
7	Bear Lake	2,945	687,125	231	12.75	233.32
9	Benewah	10,932	2,659,691	982	11.13	243.29
11	Bingham	25,193	5,292,899	2,376	10.60	210.09
13	Blaine	14,444	3,667,486	1,196	12.08	253.91
15	Boise	4,525	1,081,984	349	12.97	239.11
17	Bonner	34,593	7,411,217	2,795	12.38	214.24
19	Bonneville	37,623	8,608,863	3,178	11.84	228.82
21	Boundary	10,650	2,472,152	867	12.28	232.13
23	Butte	1,728	422,425	140	12.34	244.46
25	Camas	687	179,877	50	13.74	261.83
27	Canyon	141,423	30,250,567	10,919	12.95	213.90
29	Caribou	5,435	1,329,559	455	11.95	244.63
31	Cassia	18,323	3,515,547	1,427	12.84	191.87
33	Clark	510	117,591	57	8.95	230.57
35	Clearwater	8,898	2,087,201	743	11.98	234.57
37	Custer	3,420	767,525	273	12.53	224.42
39	Elmore	14,831	3,037,530	1,120	13.24	204.81
41	Franklin	1,822	365,621	139	13.11	200.67
43	Fremont	7,866	1,737,513	718	10.96	220.89
45	Gem	12,666	2,770,960	968	13.08	218.77
47	Gooding	7,438	1,526,204	596	12.48	205.19
49	Idaho	13,963	3,120,468	1,157	12.07	223.48
51	Jefferson	8,974	2,120,789	759	11.82	236.33
53	Jerome	11,429	2,421,756	889	12.86	211.90
55	Kootenai	84,145	17,868,749	6,853	12.28	212.36
57	Latah	12,672	2,987,078	1,059	11.97	235.72
59	Lemhi	7,222	1,479,643	573	12.60	204.88
61	Lewis	879	178,795	72	12.21	203.41
63	Lincoln	3,299	827,960	286	11.53	250.97
65	Madison	5,803	1,271,050	545	10.65	219.03
67	Minidoka	23,480	4,470,427	1,835	12.80	190.39
69	Nez Perce	19,991	4,283,319	1,614	12.39	214.26
71	Oneida	987	221,271	70	14.10	224.19
73	Owyhee	1,343	273,994	102	13.17	204.02
75	Payette	13,776	2,668,806	1,145	12.03	193.73
77	Power	7,158	1,464,785	660	10.85	204.64
79	Shoshone	17,101	3,657,154	1,444	11.84	213.86
81	Teton	1,859	450,682	176	10.56	242.43
83	Twin Falls	40,305	8,048,732	3,347	12.04	199.70
85	Valley	9,503	2,064,232	786	12.09	217.22
87	Washington	8,162	1,483,856	620	13.16	181.80
ID Counties Only		934,966	\$206,404,796	73,521	12.72	220.76
Unknown Counties		1,867	406,834	265	7.05	217.91
Total Idaho		936,833	\$206,811,629	73,786	12.70	220.76
41045	Malheur County, OR	3,924	733,192	385	10.19	186.85
53003	Asotin County, WA	4,842	977,927	403	12.01	201.97
88888	Other contiguous county	8,584	1,999,751	603	14.24	232.96
99999	Interstate Liable	39,174	9,543,276	2,684	14.60	243.61
Total Interest		56,524	\$13,254,146	4,075	13.87	234.49
Total Payments		993,357	\$220,065,775	77,861	12.76	221.54

nancial Management, Office of the Governor. The forecast is published four times a year and is available online at: <http://www2.state.id.us/dfm/ief/Forecast.html>.

### IDAHO TOPPED NATION IN STATE PERSONAL INCOME GROWTH RATE

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) recently released its preliminary estimates of State Personal Income for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter (July-Sept.), 2003. Idaho's Personal Income increased by 2.2 percent from the previous quarter. This percent change was the highest of any state and double the national percent change of 1.1 percent. The value of the change is estimated to be \$763 million. In contrast to the 2.2 percent change from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, the change between the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2003 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2003 was only 0.5 percent. BEA stated that increased farm earnings were the primary reason for Idaho's growth rate.

Idaho's Total Personal Income as of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2003 was estimated to be \$35,586 million. This amount is only 0.4 percent of the nation's Total Personal Income.

FYI Table 2: Annual Average Unemployment Rate

State	2002	2003
Alaska	7.7	8.0
Arizona	6.2	5.6
California	6.7	6.7
Colorado	5.7	6.0
<b>Idaho</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.4</b>
Montana	4.6	4.7
Nevada	5.5	5.2
New Mexico	5.4	6.4
Oregon	7.5	8.2
Utah	6.1	5.6
Washington	7.3	7.5
Wyoming	4.2	4.4

James Adams, Sr. Planner/Economist  
317 W. Main Street, Boise, ID 83735  
(208) 332-3570, ext. 3219  
E-mail: [jadams@jobservice.us](mailto:jadams@jobservice.us)

### Panhandle News — (continued from page 8)

- Golf Digest selected The Club at Black Rock's golf course as the best new private course of 2003. The Club at Black Rock, developed by Marshall Chessown, is an upscale development with 375 home sites centered on the golf course and overlooking Lake Coeur d'Alene's Rockford Bay.
- Harrison, a town of 270 residents on the south side of Lake Coeur d'Alene, recently celebrated the opening of The Landing, a restaurant in the former Rose Café building. The Landing serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner.
- Dalton Gardens, a city of 2,300 residents between Coeur d'Alene and Hayden, recently welcomed As Seen on TV & Unique Gift store at 6880 Government Way. The store features kitchen gadgets, garden equipment, and other items featured in infomercials.
- Rathdrum, a city of 5,200 residents 12 miles northwest of Coeur d'Alene, recently welcomed Aspen Leaf Floral and Gift at 6600 West Commercial Avenue; Rathdrum Clinic Family Practice, featuring medical doctor Michael Whitting and massage therapist Susan Whitting, at 14755 North Kimo Court; and Rathdrum Physical Therapy in the same building as the medical practice.

### Shoshone County

- Wallace, a city of 900 residents, received a grant from the Idaho Heritage Trust to help repair the city's historic swimming pool. Built in 1939 as a federal public works project, the pool has served generations of Wallace children.
- Mark Schram and his wife Carey opened a manufacturing plant last fall that makes tent camper trailers in Osburn, a city of 1,500 residents. With assistance from the Silver Valley Economic Development Corporation, the Schrams secured some economic development grant monies and started El Shaddai Manufacturing. Currently, they employ two people who make everything for the trailers except the axles and wheels. The trailers include tents that can be opened in 30 seconds, a bed, and a cargo area that can be accessed from outside and inside the camper.
- Cindy Choat recently opened Cinderella's Cottage at 255 East Oregon Street in Mullan, a city of 800 residents. She makes and sells ceramics, soaps, bath salts, ceramic tiles, perfumes, and glass pieces.

Kathryn Tacke, Regional Labor Economist  
1221 W. Ironwood Drive, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814  
(208) 769-1558 ext. 3984  
E-mail: [ktacke@jobservice.us](mailto:ktacke@jobservice.us)

FYI Table 3: State of Idaho Economic Indicators, 1998-2003

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	% Change From 2002- 2003	1998- 2003
<b>POPULATION*</b>	1,252,330	1,275,674	1,299,610	1,321,585	1,343,124	1,366,332		
Idaho % Change	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.7	9.1
U.S. % Change	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	5.4
<b>LABOR FORCE BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>								
Civilian Labor Force	653,056	651,090	657,712	681,558	684,749	692,543	1.1	6.0
Unemployment	32,839	33,697	31,914	33,274	39,683	37,440	-5.7	14.0
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	5.0	5.2	4.9	4.9	5.8	5.4		
Total Employment	620,217	617,393	625,798	648,283	645,066	655,103	1.6	5.6
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.5	4.2	4.0	4.8	5.8	6.0		
<b>NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS</b>								
Idaho Employment	520,506	538,148	558,588	568,033	568,203	571,747		
Idaho % Change	2.6	3.4	3.8	1.7	-0.1	0.6	0.6	9.8
U.S. % Change	2.6	2.4	2.2	0.2	-0.9	-0.3	-0.3	3.2
<b>IDAHO AGRICULTURE EMPLOYMENT</b>	34,064	34,496	34,417	34,088	35,331	39,852	12.8	17.0
<b>UI DATA - All Programs</b>								
Weeks Paid	564,201	554,334	536,562	701,984	982,850	936,833	-4.7	66.0
Dollars Paid	\$100,251,341	\$105,459,964	\$106,609,870	\$149,629,576	\$217,384,029	\$206,811,629	-4.9	106.3
Covered Employers (Public & Private Units)	43,165	44,299	45,408	46,422	46,601	48,323	3.7	11.9
<b>INCOME</b>							<b>2001-2002</b>	<b>1998-2002</b>
Total Personal Income (thousands of dollars)	\$27,065,907	\$28,901,240	\$31,176,612	\$32,362,804	\$33,605,364	INA*		
Idaho Percent Change	7.3	6.8	7.9	3.8	3.8		3.8	24.2
US Percent Change	7.1	4.9	3.8	3.3	2.5		2.5	19.9
Personal Per Capita Income	\$21,612	\$22,656	\$23,987	\$24,506	\$25,057	INA*		
Idaho Percent Change	5.2	4.8	5.9	2.2	2.2		2.2	15.9
US Percent Change	5.8	3.7	6.7	2.2	1.4		1.4	14.6
<b>U.S. Consumer Price Index (All Items 1985-1984)</b>								
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	159.7	163.2	168.9	173.5	175.9	179.8	2.2	10.1
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	163.0	166.6	172.2	177.1	179.9	184.0	2.3	10.4
*State Personal Income will be released Spring 2004								
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, COMPILED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES								
Updated: March 18, 2004								



# Glossary of Labor Market Terms

**Agriculture Employment:** Persons on agriculture payrolls who work or receive pay for any period during the survey week. This includes owners, operators, unpaid family members who work at least 15 hours a week, and hired laborers.

**Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours:** The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Average Weekly Earnings:** Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

**Civilian Labor Force:** A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

**Consumer Price Index (CPI):** A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

**Covered Employers:** Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

**Durable Goods:** Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

**Employed:** Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

**Initial Claim:** Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

**Labor Market Area (LMA):** An area that consists of a central city or cities and the surrounding territory within commuting distance. It is an economically integrated geographic area within which individuals can reside and find employment without changing place of residence. Idaho has nine LMAs.

**Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA):** An area that has either a city with a population of at least 50,000 or a Bureau of Census urbanized area of at least 50,000 and a

total metropolitan area of at least 100,000. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. There are five MSAs in Idaho—Boise City-Nampa MSA (including Ada and Canyon Counties), Coeur d’Alene MSA (Kootenai County), Idaho Falls MSA (Jefferson and Bonneville Counties), Lewiston MSA (Nez Perce County in Idaho and Asotin County in Washington), Logan MSA (Franklin County and the Logan, Utah, Metro Area), and Pocatello City (Bannock County).

**Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment:** Persons on nonfarm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

**Nondurable Goods:** Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

**Seasonally Adjusted:** Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

**Unemployed:** Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

**Unemployment Insurance:** Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

**Unemployment Rate:** The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

**Weekly Benefit Amount:** The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

**Weeks Claimed:** The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

**Weeks Compensated:** The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.